

CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR. 7 September 1955

SUBJECT

Situation in the SED (RE: POLICY, PROPAGANDA
SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE OF REGIME, ETC)

NO. OF PAGES 4

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Bezirk Headquarters Berlin:

Pacifist tendencies in factories and offices of the Berlin City Administration hamper the recruitment campaign for the KVP. Factory party groups dodge the responsibility of taking over the sponsorship (Patenschaft) of West Berlin factories and are rather unwilling to conduct political activities in the Western sector of the city.

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2. Bezirk Headquarters Erfurt:

The discussions with workers of nationalized enterprises which were to be conducted by order of the Bezirk Headquarters have progressed in a very unsatisfactory way. The workers of these enterprises still nourish pacifist tendencies. They oppose the establishment of military formations and are unwilling to serve in them. FDG activities leave much to be desired. FDJ representatives do not take part in the activities of the ~~Democratic Bloc~~ Democratic Bloc and in the meetings of committees of the "National Front". The members of the FDJ Bezirk Headquarters are unable to organize operations and propaganda activities.

3. Bezirk Headquarters Halle:

The recruitment campaign for the KVP is meeting with greater success in rural areas than in industry. Pronounced opposition against military preparations was met at VEB Walzwerk (rolling mill) Hettstedt, VEB chemische Werke Buna (synthetic-rubber plant), VEB Leunawerk "Walter Ulbricht" (Leuna synthetic-gasoline works). The recruitment campaign for the KVP was entirely without success. This situation is mainly to be blamed on the ~~functionaries of the Bezirk Headquarters~~ functionaries of the Bezirk Headquarters.

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STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION														
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which failed to enlighten workers on the meaning of pacifism. The first and second party secretaries of this Kreis Headquarters were therefore released from their positions. The attendance at SED training courses decreased considerably. An average of 44% of SED members and candidates attended the study groups to which they were assigned. The collection of signatures for the Vienna Appeal of the World Peace Council is making only slow progress. By 30 April, only 41.5% of the population had signed the appeal. In Stadtkreis Halle, only 19.7% of the population had backed the appeal with their signatures. The corresponding figure for young persons in Halle was only 16 %.

4. Bezirk Headquarters Karl-Marx-Stadt:

In spite of clear directives, the party rallies held in the area of Bezirk Karl-Marx-Stadt were concerned with measures designed to promote patriotism and readiness for war. More than half of the party rallies held during the period under review were attended by less than half of the SED membership and SED candidates. Large sections of the population consider the declarations made by the GDR Council of Ministries on the arrest of 521 Western agents and saboteurs as a pretext for more radical measures against enemies of the party and pacifists. A total of 128 party members and candidates refused to comply with the party order to serve with the KVP. Very few of the party rallies scheduled to be held in connection with the Vienna Appeal of the World Peace Council have actually been organized. Propaganda material of the party is little in evidence in streets. The bourgeois parties have been more successful in the collecting of signatures for the Vienna Appeal. SED members who conduct propaganda activities within the National Front were often drawn into lively discussions on the compatibility of the Vienna Appeal with the measures designed to increase the military armament of the GDR. The payment of party dues is most unsatisfactory. There are tendencies of disintegration within the Democratic Bloc organizations of several rural communities. Representatives of bourgeois parties, the FDJ, and the FDGB fail to attend meetings of the Democratic Bloc. These tendencies may be attributed to subversive propaganda, according to which all activity for the Democratic Bloc will be liable to prosecution after the overthrow of the régime.

5. Bezirk Headquarters Potsdam:

More than 30 sabotage acts were attempted at the Stahl- und Walzwerk (steel work and rolling mill) Brandenburg, VEB Schwermaschinenbau (heavy-machine construction enterprise) "Heinrich Rau" at Wildau, at VEB LEW Hennigsdorf (steel works and rolling mill), the Potsdam Railroad Repair Shop, and other enterprises. The effects of subversive propaganda could be noticed in rural areas. The farmers oppose the establishment of "staendige Arbeitsgemeinschaften" (permanent working communities) because they see in them a preliminary step for the formation of production cooperatives (Produktionsgenossenschaft). Pacifist propaganda hamper the recruitment campaign for the KVP, especially on the streets of Berlin and among the teachers of the Bezirk. Four teachers of professional schools (Berufsschulen) were arrested because they openly told their students not to volunteer for the KVP. An intensification

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in underground propaganda indicates that Western broadcasts are received to an increasing degree. Hoarding of foodstuffs has been observed in the country. The collection of signatures for the Vienna Appeal is satisfactory so far. By 30 April 1955, [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] given their signatures, while [REDACTED] ing figure [REDACTED] people stood at 29.1%. Pacifist and anti-party tendencies were conspicuous at meetings of party activists held by the Rathenow Kreis headquarters. Six members of the [REDACTED] (group of party activities) of the Kreis were released from [REDACTED] functions, because they refused to volunteer for service [REDACTED]

6. Bezirk Headquarters Rostock:

The work of the party agitators left much to be desired. This situation must be blamed on SED Kreis and Bezirk headquarters. The indoctrination of party members has been neglected. Most of the party agitators do not regularly read the party press or do not read it at all. The attendance at party training courses decreased. In factory groups, the situation was more satisfactory.

7. Bezirk Headquarters Schwerin:

Agricultural production cooperatives show tendencies toward disintegration because payments made to the members of cooperatives at the end of the year were below expectations. Party work is poorly organized in agricultural [REDACTED] cooperatives. A total of 85 such cooperatives do not yet have efficient leaders for their SED groups.

8. Bezirk Headquarters Suhl:

Work of party groups and of the organizations of active party members was inadequate in factories, especially at VEB Simson, VEB Uhren- und Maschinenfabrik (watch and machine building plant) "Element Gottwald" at Ruhla, and the "Staatliche Forstwirtschaftsbetrieb" (State forest enterprise) at Meiningen. In all party organizations and their affiliated mass organizations of the Bezirk, the interest in work for the reunification of Germany decreased greatly. No new connections to West Germany were established. Pacifist tendencies are still widespread.

9. Bezirk Headquarters Magdeburg:

In many courses the attendance [REDACTED] training courses dropped to about 10% of the previous at [REDACTED]. A total of 220 study groups have dissolved since the beginning of 1955.

10. Bezirk Headquarters Neubrandenburg:

The number of sabotage acts committed at machine tractor stations, in nationalized enterprises, and agricultural production cooperatives increased. Work at machine tractor stations has been disrupted by forged orders. Arrests were made in six agricultural production cooperatives where machinery had been made unusable.

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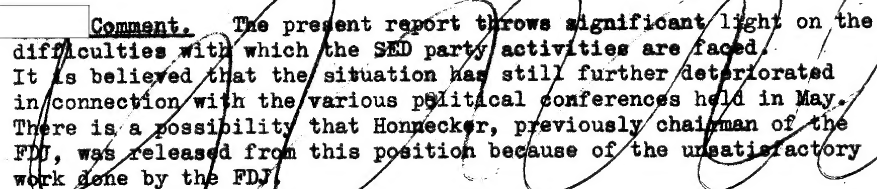

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11. Bezirk Headquarters at Cottbus, Frankfurt, and Gera:

No data of interest were reported.

12. Bezirk Headquarters at Dresden, Leipzig, and Gebiet Headquarters Wismut:

No reports were received.


 Comment. The present report throws significant light on the difficulties with which the SED party activities are faced. It is believed that the situation has still further deteriorated in connection with the various political conferences held in May. There is a possibility that Honnecker, previously chairman of the FDJ, was released from this position because of the unsatisfactory work done by the FDJ.

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THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE SPY ACT OF 1950, OF THE COMMUNIST CONTROL ACT OF 1954, AND OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954. IT IS TO BE KEPT SECRET AND IS TO BE CONTAINED WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN.

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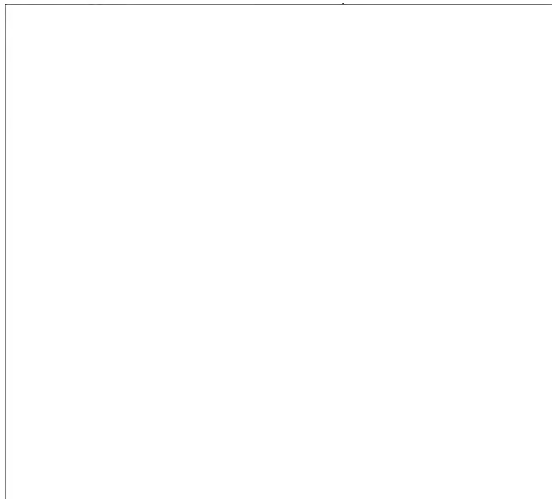
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